Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00405 150611Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEA-01

SAM-01 INT-05 STR-01 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EIND, EAID, EFIN, PK, TC

SUBJ: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

REF: A. ABU DHABI 1665

B. ISLAMABAD 2779

C. STATE 135977

SUMMARY: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER, RETURNING HOME FROM ASSISTING SHAIKH ZAID IN STATE VISIT TO INDIA, CALLED ON PM BHUTTO AT LATTER'S SIND HOME WHILE ACCOMPANY-ING DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN MEETING OF PAK-UAE

MINISTERIAL COMMISSION IN ISLAMABAD. COMMISSION

DISCUSSED COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (OIL

REFINERY AND FERTILIZER JOINT VENTURES IN MULTAN)

AND RECENTLY CONCLUDED OIL AGREEMENT. NOTE: CON-

CESSIONAL PRICE TERMS MAY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN OIL

AGREEMENT. SHAIKH ZIAD TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT HERE

IN FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOREIGN MINISTER A. K. AL-SUWEIDI, ON TWO DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN BEGINNING JANUARY 6. ANNOUNCED THAT UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAID CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00405 150611Z

WILL PAY OFFICIAL VISIT HERE SOON. SUWEIDI, WHO

ARRIVED FROM BOMBAY WHERE HE HAD ACCOMPANIED ZAID ON STATE VISIT TO INDIA. CALLED ON PRIMIN BHUTTO AT

LATTER'S HOME IN
LARKANA, SIND, WHILE MEMBERS OF HIS
DELEGATION PARTICIPATED INMEETING OF PAK-UAE MINISTERIAL
COMMISSION.

- 2. AT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION MEETING (ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION REPORTED REF B), UAE SIDE HEADED BY GHANEN AL-MARUI, DIRGEN OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS WHILE PAK DEL LED BY AFTAB AHMED KHAN, SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MEETING DEALT WITH TWO COUNTRIES' COOPERATION IN MAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
- 3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED VISIT JANUARY 13 WITH UAE EMBOFF
 A. R. ABDULLAH, WHO SAID ARABS HAD NO PARTICULAR PROGRAM
 IN MIND WHEN THEY CAME BUT WERE MERELY FOLLOWING
 AGREED UPON PROCEDURE SET AT ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION,
 I.E., THAT TWO SIDES WOULD EXCHANGE VISITS AT FORMIN
 LEVEL ANNUALLY. THUS, MIN OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND
 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED WENT TO ABU DHABI IN MAY,
 WITH SUWEIDI NOW RETURNING VISIT. ITEMS DISCUSSED
 IN JANUARY 7 COMMISSION MEETING, ABDULLAH STATED, WERE
 THE TWO PAK-UAE JOINT PROJECTS AT MULTAN, (AN OIL
 REFINERY AND FERTILIZER PLANT) AND RECENT OIL AGREEMENT
 BETWEEN TWO STATES.
- 4. UNDER OIL AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS BRIEFLY REPORTED LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 7, UAE IS ANNUALLY TO SUPPLY PAKS WITH ONE MILLION TONS OF CRUDE, POSSIBLY AT CONCESSIONAL PRICES. TO GET PRICE DETAILS WHICH PRESS REPORTS "WERE WITHHELD", EMBOFF RAISED SUBJECT WITH ABDULLAH, WHOSE ENGLISH IS MORE THAN PASSABLE. HE INITIALLY USED TERM "CONCESSIONAL RATES", THEN, BECOMING EMBARRASSED AND BACK PEDALING, TRIED "AT BROTHERLY RATES". WITHOUT EVER SAYING WHAT PRICE WAS ACTUALLY AGREED TO, HE THEN OBSERVED THAT LONG TERM PAYMENT PLAN ESTABLISHED WHICH AMOUNTED TO A CONCONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00405 150611Z

CESSIONAL RATE. AS ABDULLAH OBVIOUSLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SUBJECT, EMBOFF DID NOT PRESS BUT WAS LEFT WITH DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT PAKS WILL BE GETTING UAE OIL AT FIGURE SOMEWHAT BELOW WORLD PRICE.

5. UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAID PLANS TO ARRIVE HERE IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND COMMENCE HIS OFFICIAL VISIT (PURPOSE NOT DISCUSSED) AFTER A STINT OF HAWKING ON

HIS HUNTING PRESERVE NEAR RAHIM YAR KHAN. ZAID HAS THREE PALACES HERE, ABDULLAH DISCLOSED, THAT AT RAHIM YAR KHAN "ONE OF THE LARGEST IN PAKISTAN", PLUS TWO IN OR NEAR KARACHI, WHILE VICE PRESIDENT SHAIKH RASHID ALSO MAINTAINS HUNTING PALACE NEAR BAHAWALPUR.

6. COMMENT: FOR MONTHS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN ON THE ALERT FOR ANY MENTION OF ARAB OR PERSIAN CONCESSIONAL OIL PRICES TO PAKISTAN. ABDULLAH'S IS FIRST LEAD WE HAVE COME UP WITH TO DATE. IF TRUE, IT MUST BE DUE TO THE CLOSE MILITARY/ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES AND THE PERSONAL LINKS WHICH SHAIKH ZAID HAS WITH PAKISTAN. BYROADE

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